



INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER NEWS

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FALL 2010



CALTANISSETTA-ROCHESTER 45!

More than 100 people gathered at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center on Sunday, Nov. 14th, for an International Gala to celebrate the 45th anniversary of the Caltanissetta-Rochester sister cities relationship.

The Honorable Anthony Sciolino served as Master of Ceremonies for the banquet and ceremonies and Mayor Duffy offered brief remarks and congratulations. CRSCC chair Rosalba Pisaturo reviewed the history of the relationship, introduced



Bianca & Simona, Caltanissetta, help raffle a Vespa 150 to raise funds for celebration. Photo R. Pisaturo

Bianca Venturi and Simona Maggio, ATAD high school exchange students from Caltanissetta, and presented a plaque to the Gruttadauria family, recognizing the century-old pastry business their Caltanissetta-born great-grandfather established on Jay Street in Rochester.

International entertainment was provided by the Greece Athena High School Show Choir and four dance ensembles: Bollywood Dance Mania (India), the Chinese Dance Company of Rochester, the Young School of Irish Dance, and Da Igramo Folk Ensemble (Italian suite).

V. NOVGOROD 20th— BOBRYSHEV VISITS

SISTER CITY PHOTOS AT CITY HALL



Mayor Duffy, businessman Vladimir Gabrikov, Mayor Yuri Bobryshev, Paul Caccamise

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the signing of the sister city agreement between Velikiy Novgorod and Rochester. After several years of efforts to establish a relationship between the citizens of the two cities by mail in the 1980s, a delegation from Rochester was invited to go to Novgorod in 1990 to sign a formal sister city

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24 photos of our sister cities and Rochester are on exhibit in the City Hall Link Gallery, now through December 6th. Organized by ISCOR trustee Martha O'Connor, "International Sister Cities of Rochester: Fostering Community around the Globe" features the architecture or natural beauty of the cities with which we are twinned. Gallery hours are Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thank you to Martha for creating this lasting resource for us. The enclosed insert shows each of the exhibited photos.



Opening visitors admire photo from V. Nogrord.



From the President's Desk

[Because of the long program, Pres. Conklin cut short her remarks for the 2010 Annual Reception. Here's an extract from them. —Ed.]



Thank you all for joining us for the International Sister Cities of Rochester annual reception! Tonight, I'd like to spend a few moments reflecting on some of the major events that occurred during the past twelve months, as well as looking ahead to the future of ISCOR. It's been an amazing year of change and transition for ISCOR—some happy, and some sad. Let me sum of up some of what has been going on in our organization.

It is with sadness that I report the loss of several of our most ardent ISCOR supporters. Otto Fuchs, a long-time chair of the Wurzburg, Germany, Sister Cities Committee, and John Kavanaugh, longtime chair of the Waterford, Ireland, Sister Cities Committee, both passed away during this past year. These two remarkable gentleman embodied the true spirit of ISCOR, and we will miss them greatly. Recently, the ISCOR family was also saddened to hear of the passing of Kurt Weinbach, husband of former Rehovot chairperson Sheila Weinbach, and a wonderfully delightful individual. We extend our condolences to the families and friends of all three of these gentlemen, who gave so much of themselves to further the cause of international friendship and understanding among cultures.

2010 was also a year of transition. After more than 20 years of service, Terry Mathews-DeSant has stepped down as Chair of the Rennes-Rochester Sister Cities Committee. This summer Terry and her vice-chair Cathy Nye, were recognized for their leadership by Mayor Delaveau at a ceremony in Rennes. I'd like to thank Terry for her outstanding service, and for all of her hard work and dedication on behalf of the Rennes Committee. Rennes Committee member Raymond Griswold has stepped forward to fill Terry's big shoes, and we warmly welcome him, and wish him much success, in his new role as committee chair.

I want to take a moment to recognize all of the ISCOR Committee Chairs. These folks contribute endless hours of volunteer work promoting what President Eisenhower called "people to people" programs. Please know that your efforts are very much appreciated.

Jill Fortune, secretary of the Board of Trustees, has

resigned for personal reasons. Many thanks to Jill for her two years of excellent service. Board member Kevin Loughran has assumed Jill's duties.

I'd like to officially welcome the four newest members of the ISCOR Board of Trustees. They are Dr. George Eisen; Director of the Center for International Education, Nazareth College; Patricia Uttaro; Director, Rochester Public Library and Monroe County Library System; Carolyn Baker-Scott; Senior Economic Development Specialist, City of Rochester; and Maria Thomas Fisher; Municipal Assistant, City of Rochester, and Director of Community Engagement, and past president, Rochester Young Professionals. Trustees Lois Giess and Kevin Loughran have renewed their terms.

Rochester welcomed its 12th Sister City this past year. We are very pleased to add Alytus, Lithuania, to our list of official Sister Cities.

Of course, what would Sister Cities be without cultural exchanges, and in true ISCOR fashion, we certainly experienced our share of travel during the past year. Rochester received visitors that included high school and college students from Rennes, France; a business woman from Caltanissetta, Italy; four medical school deans from Krakow, Poland; a teacher, journalists, and Mayor Bobryshev's delegation from Novgorod, Russia; and a mayoral delegation from Alytus, Lithuania.

While we've traveled far and wide, and welcomed friends to our homes, Sister Cities has continued to make its presence known in the Rochester community. Events during the past year that have highlighted our sister cities relationships include the "Visual Griots of Mali" exhibit at the Rochester Public Library, the "Forgotten Ireland" exhibit at St. John Fisher College, and a Russian art exhibit and lecture.

In the past, the majority of our Sister Cities activities have focused on tourism, humanitarian aid, and educational, cultural, sports, and professional exchange. Recently, delegations from Rochester and individual travelers have met with businesses, business and tourism development agencies, and other agencies during the course of their travels. This and support from partners such as the International Business Council of Greater Rochester and Visit Rochester have greatly enhanced ISCOR's ability to serve as a gateway between Rochester and our sister cities.

Of course, none of these special relationships would be successful for all of these years without all of you—the ISCOR volunteers. Thank you for all of your hard work and commitment. The success of ISCOR is your success, and

(Continued on page 4, President's Message)



RENNES, FRANCE 1958

The Rennes-Rochester Sister City Committee is looking forward to a busy program of new activities to enlarge on those we have carried out under leadership of Terry Mathews-DeSant and Cathy Nye, both recognized in a ceremony in Rennes this June for their work. We are recruiting interested individuals to help bring these programs to fruition.

We are working to expand our presence at both the high school and university level. To support this, in the spring we'll be having a colloquium with area French teachers and school administrators on the benefits of these relationships.

Sports - We are looking for a basketball team of 12-13 year-old boys for a tournament in Pacé, just outside of Rennes, in March. The Rochester Wheels would like to host an international wheelchair basketball tournament in Rochester in May of 2012. A multi-sister city basketball tournament is also in the works.

The RRSCC has been working with Garth Fagan Dance, since late last year. We would like to send them abroad to Rennes as part of a multi-city tour to our other sister cities. As GFD is currently celebrating their 40th anniversary, the time to undertake this is now. Our other sister cities recognize the value and are researching it as well.

We invite you to take part in its development and follow-through. Feel free to give me a call at 264-0232 to get more information.

Ray Griswold, Interim President

Coming Events

Now-Dec 6. "International Sister Cities of Rochester: Fostering Community around the Globe," Link Gallery, City Hall, 30 Church St. M-F, 9AM-5PM. Free.

Dec. 11. *Wigilia*, Traditional Polish Christmas Eve customs and dinner, St. John Fisher College, 5:30 PM. Info: www.polishheritagerochester.org

Dec. 12-Feb. 20. "Light in the World: Celebrations of Holy Days and Festivals in Our Sister Cities" Exhibit at Rochester City Hall, Visitors Area. M-F, 9-5. Free.

All listed events are handicapped accessible.



WÜRZBURG, GERMANY 1964

MozartFest 2010. Each June, our German Sister City, Würzburg hosts the annual MozartFest, to which representatives of all their "Partner Stadt" are invited. The Mozart Festival began in 1922 and annually draws music fans from around Germany and central Europe to enjoy internationally acclaimed artists. The opening concert is staged in The Residence, the palace of the Prince Bishops. Extensively damaged during WW II, this World Heritage Site has been lovingly restored to its former glory, and is a magnificent setting for the Festival's music. [See photo in the City Hall Exhibit insert—Ed.] As well as enjoying the outstanding performances of Mozart's music at various venues around the city, each sister city delegate is afforded the opportunity to meet with local officials and industry leaders to strengthen the bonds between the city pairs.

As Würzburg-Rochester Chair Edie Fuchs was unable to attend this year, I was pleased to lead the Rochester delegation, which included local artists Frances and Albert Paley. Noted photographer Frances used the occasion to capture some of the extremely picturesque architecture of the Würzburg region. Albert created a magnificent metalwork statue that he presented to the Lord Mayor at a



Albert Paley (r) presents Lord Mayor Georg Rosenthal (l) with a custom crafted sculpture, VisitRochester's Ed Hall is center.

Photo by: Frances Paley

formal banquet honoring all of the various Sister City delegates. Additionally, he met with the Culture Minister and explored the possibility of a future exhibition of his works in one of the many local Würzburg museums. I met with my tourism counterparts to discuss expanding the already lively exchange of tourists between our cities.

Submitted by Ed Hall, President/CEO, VisitRochester



REHOVOT, ISRAEL 1972

On September 21, City Council approved legislation amending the original 1972 resolution that created the Rochester-Rehovot Sister Cities

connection. It enables Rochester to enter into a three-way relationship with Rehovot and Albuquerque, New Mexico (the latter two cities inked an agreement in 2008). With the adoption of this Council resolution, the Rochester-Rehovot Sister Cities Committee will be able to take advantage of the increased possibilities for cultural, educational, and economic opportunities. A signing ceremony is expected to occur within the next several months.

On a much sadder note, our local Sister Cities program lost a great supporter, **Kurt Weinbach**, the long-time husband and best friend of former Rehovot Committee Chair, Sheila Weinbach. Truly an international man, Kurt passed away on September 20th. He spoke to school and community groups for many years about his experiences growing up in Austria after the Nazi occupation of Austria. Kurt's family boarded the last train that would take Jews away to safety in China with the help of the German General in charge of Vienna.

In China, Kurt learned English and Chinese, and acted as a translator for the U.S. Marines when Japan surrendered during World War II. During the late 1940s, the family emigrated to Israel where Kurt lived in Rehovot and fought in the Sinai War of 1956. He came to Rochester in 1957, immediately involved himself in the community. In 1960 he married Rochester native, Sheila Gissin Weinbach.

Kurt spoke 12 languages, and in each one profoundly expressed his kindness and interest in other people.

Submitted by Dan Karin

(Continued from page 2) President's Message

you are to be congratulated for making our Sister Cities program a rewarding experience for both the greater Rochester area and our sister city communities.

Thank you for all you've done, and all you continue to do. I look forward with anticipation to the year ahead of us.

Carolee A. Conklin

[President Conklin's complete remarks are available from Michael Leach, mleach@cityofrochester.gov. —Ed.]



BAMAKO, MALI 1975

Medical Supplies and Equipment Shipped

and received. On Sept. 1st, the Bamako-Rochester Sister Cities Committee and InterVol shipped nearly 200 boxes of medical supplies and equipment to Bamako, Mali; they were received in mid-October. The supplies and equipment will go to community and rural health clinics in the Bamako region with a population of over one million residents. It commemorates the 35th anniversary of the twinning of our two cities.



Container packed and ready to leave Intervol lot. Photo Clyde Forbes

The shipment has been in the planning stages for several years and has faced several obstacles involving shipping logistics and costs. A generous donation from the Pen-Web Rotary and the Rotary International District Foundation capped years of fundraising efforts.

Most medical supplies were provided by InterVol, a not-for-profit humanitarian organization that receives donated items from local hospitals and medical clinics. Additional supplies were provided by Zoetek Medical Equipment and Repair. Monroe Wheelchairs donated several walkers and a local physician donated a medical examination table. Donated educational supplies will help a local school in Bamako.

Submitted by Clyde Forbes

INTERNATIONAL SISTER CITIES OF ROCHESTER: Fostering Community Around the Globe.

Photographs of our 12 Sister Cities and Rochester

Organized by ISCOR Trustee Martha J. O'Connor this exhibit is currently on display in the Link Gallery at City Hall, through **December 6, 2010, Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**



Opera de Rennes by Deborah Johnson
Rennes, France



Street Scene by Brian Peterson
Rennes, France



"The Well of Francoia" at Würzburg Residence

by Ed Hall
Würzburg, Germany



Würzburg Seen from the River Main at Dusk

by Ed Hall
Würzburg, Germany



Rochester on New Year's Eve 2006
by Ira Srole
Rochester, USA



Rehovot Mayor Schmuel Rechtman, Prime Minister Golda Meir, Rochester Mayor Stephen May with Committee Chairs Florence and Leon Sturman (1973)
Photo on loan from Dan Karin, Rehovot, Israel



Santa Maria La Nova Cathedral by Gaetano Camilleri
Caltanissetta, Italy



Street Scene by Gaetano Camilleri
Caltanissetta, Italy



Royal Castle on Wawel Hill by Wiesław Majka
Kraków, Poland



**Zygmunt's Chapel,
Wawel Hill**
by Wiesław Majka
Kraków, Poland



Dogon Mud Brick Shrine by Lynda Howland
Bamako, Mali



Niger River Sunset by Lynda Howland
Bamako, Mali



Street Scene
by Carolee Conklin
Waterford, Ireland



Reginald's Tower
by Thomas O'Connell
Waterford, Ireland



St. Vaarlam Convent at Khoutyn by Arthur Visnap
Velikiy Novgorod, Russia



Nerditsa in Winter by Anatoliy Andreev
Velikiy Novgorod, Russia



Houkou Ji Temple by Junko M. Mills
Hamamatsu, Japan



Ryotan Garden by Elaine Barnes
Hamamatsu, Japan



Gazebo, Main Plaza by **Maurine Johnson**
Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic



City Hall, Main Plaza by **Maurine Johnson**
Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic



Boat Scene by **Mike Coniff**
Xianyang, China



Garden Topiary by **Mike Coniff**
Xianyang, China



**Nemunas
River View**
by **Rimas Chesonis**
Alytus, Lithuania



Angel of Liberty
by **Rimas Chesonis**
Alytus, Lithuania



KRAKÓW, POLAND 1973

Guest article by Lucyna Rudyk, Bureau of International Cooperation, City of Kraków

The Sukiennice—The Cloth Hall.

Kraków – one of the oldest Polish cities. Its historical center was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1978. Those who have visited our city know that one of the most beautiful buildings, situated in the middle of the historical center of town, is the SUKIENNICE (CLOTH HALL) – the medieval mall.



Today a commercial character has been preserved only on the first floor of the building. There are some small shops where you can buy some more or less expensive souvenirs. On the second floor there is a gallery of Polish art of 18th and 19th century.

You can see there the paintings presenting important events from Polish history and portraits of people who participated in these events. Visitors can admire works of Jan Matejko, Henryk Siemiradzki, Michał Stachowicz and other Polish painters and sculptors.

In the end of September another museum opened in the Sukiennice, this time situated on underground level. It shows interesting secrets found several meters under the surface of the Main Market during the archeological researches.

This exhibition is unique not only in Poland but also in the world. The historical objects displayed in connection with the multimedia presentation give you an exceptional possibility to explore the medieval Kraków. You can be at the same time

(Continued on page 7) Sukiennice



WATERFORD, IRELAND 1983

What a busy summer of travel! Mayor Halligan of Waterford came to Rochester in May! 11 Rochester young and senior musicians and dancers to Waterford in June to perform, learn, and make fond acquaintances! Then the Waterford committee's tour

(Continued on page 7)



Rochester and Waterford traditional musicians performed for Mayor Halligan at Waterford City Hall



HAMAMATSU, JAPAN 1996

Hamamatsu Story Exchange Project.

The Hamamatsu and Rochester committees are working on a story exchange. Each is choosing and translating a small number of local folk tales that represent its own community. So far the Rochester committee has selected a story about the daredevil Sam Patch, who jumped off Niagara Falls but died while jumping off Rochester's High Falls; a ghost story about a lady in white who haunts the Ontario Lake shoreline in the vicinity of Durand Eastman Park; and two very short Seneca legends that either teach a moral lesson or explain something in nature. Jeff Mills has been busy shooting photos to provide illustrations for the stories.

The Native American legends were kindly and generously supplied by Jeanette Miller from Ganondagan in Victor, NY. One of the legends tells the tale of why the corn husk doll has no facial features. Jeff has beautifully photographed some of the corn husk dolls which are part of their collection. The Ganondagan Visitors' Center receives guests each year from many countries around the world and so the

(Continued on page 7)



VELIKIY NOVGOROD, RUSSIA 1990

(Continued from page 1)

agreement. In honor of the 20-year anniversary, Yuri Bobryshev, mayor of Velikiy Novgorod traveled to Rochester in October for a five-day visit.

Mayor Bobryshev was accompanied by his wife, Margarita Bobrysheva; Irina Garasimova, Sister City Relations Coordinator in the Novgorod City Administration; and by Vladimir Gavrikov, the CEO of Acron Corporation, a chemical and fertilizer company that is the largest employer in Novgorod.

Mayor Bobryshev's delegation met with business representatives and the dean of the University of Rochester Simon School of Business. He and Irina described and presented a slide show on Novgorod's substance abuse prevention programs in a lively panel discussion on Prevention of Substance Abuse organized by Empire State College and the United Nations Association of Rochester.

The delegation met Mayor Duffy and top city officials to map out a future direction for the relationship between Velikiy Novgorod and Rochester. Mayor Bobryshev's priorities for the sister cities relationship include economic development and tourism. The mayor pointed to the city's rich historical and cultural assets as the oldest city in Russia, claiming the title of the "Birthplace of Russia."

The group also paid a visit to Garth Fagan Dance. The famous dance troupe is considering a performance tour in Europe, including Russia. The group discussed the opportunity of including Novgorod as a performance site.

In their brief stay the group was also able to fit in some sightseeing including a trip to Niagara Falls and a private tour of the George Eastman House.

The delegation's visit ended with the annual ISCOR reception in City Hall on October 21 and dinner at Virtu restaurant.

Submitted by Paul Caccamise

For further details, visit <http://www.linkagesrochester.org/>



PUERTO PLATA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1997

Rochester Delegation for Needs Assessment and Relationship Building

A 10-member delegation has just returned from a week-long visit to Rochester's Hispanic sister city, to assess opportunities for activities that benefit both communities and to build relationships. The delegation included representatives of the Rochester Fire Department; the Northwest Rochester Rotary International; and of cultural, medical and educational institutions. They met with professional counterparts and were recognized as "Distinguished Guests" by official resolution the Puerto Plata City Council.



Delegation with Mayor Walter Musa. Photo from *Puerto Plata Habla*

The trip builds on more than twelve years of relationships with Puerto Plata established by community volunteers and a 2008 visit by an official delegation led by Mayor Walter Musa. *For information, contact Relton Roland, 473-5346*



XIANYANG, CHINA 2007

The Xianyang-Rochester Sister Cities Committee has arranged for a teacher from China to come to visit area high schools. The teacher will describe to our students what teenage life is like in China, and encourage our students to set up e-mail pen pal relationships with students back in Xianyang.

Additionally the committee hopes this will encourage students to travel to Xianyang and Beijing during Spring break of 2011.

Submitted by Michael Coniff



ALYTUS, LITHUANIA 2009

Since the visit by Mayor Daugela's delegation to Rochester to sign the sister cities agreement in May, several Rochesterians have visited Alytus.

Michael Leach represented Mayor Duffy at the annual "Alytus Days" summer festival, opened an exhibit of 40 Rochester photographs displayed at the Alytus Ethnographic Museum, and visited community institutions. Rimas Chesonis and Don and Erin Marozas separately visited in July. Teams of the Alytus committee has held several meetings to follow up on activity opportunities identified.

30 members of the **Dainava Folk Ensemble** of Alytus are expected to participate in the 2011 Lilac Festival Parade, perform briefly in Highland Park, and give a public performance on the evening of May 14th, as part of their 2011 North American tour.



Modern Alytus seen from Alytus Mound, site of the historic fortress and settlement. Photo M. Leach

(Continued from page 5)

Hamamatsu Committee is going to share our translation with them for the benefit of Japanese speaking tourists who visit this historic site.

Go Fly a Kite! The Hamamatsu Committee will celebrate the 15th year of the signing of the original Sister City agreement by travelling to Japan in May of 2011. The trip will coincide with the annual Kite Festival that attracts two million people from Japan and around the world. It is said that the festival originated about 430 years ago, when the lord of Hamamatsu Castle celebrated the birth of his first son by flying kites. At night huge floats are paraded through town, accompanied by music, dancers and crowds of people.

For information, contact Maurine Johnson, 425-6723

(Continued from page 5) *Sukiennice*

in 21st century and observe life of people in middle ages. The title of the whole exhibition is "In the Footsteps of Kraków's European Identity."

The underground exhibition features 700 archaeological monuments; 500 models of the historic monuments; 8 animated movies; 5 documentary films; 7 mannequins and scale models; 5 time capsules; and 600 3D digital reconstructions. You can find more information on the website http://mhk.pl/oddzialy/podziemna_rynku.

When you are in Kraków, be sure to visit the Sukiennice.

(Continued from page 5) *Waterford*

of young professionals, business and cultural folks, and a few old pros went over in September to meet with tourism and business development agencies, Waterford Institute of Technology, cultural institutions, and establish new

connections. And tour and have fun, too!

Thank you to everyone here and in Waterford who worked so hard to plan and organize these very successful visits!



Tom O'Connell and Mayor Mary Roche in Business Development Workshop, Waterford

For more information, contact Tom O'Connell, 872-4507

In Memoriam, John Kavanaugh

John Kavanaugh was one of those people that was always around and you never thought that he would not be there. A founding member, at the request of Mayor Tom Ryan in 1983, of the Waterford Sister City Committee and was 25 years its chairman, passing the reins to Tom O'Connell in 2008. He was present at nearly every ISCOR event, sometimes quietly in the background, and at other times gracing us all with his wit and wisdom. And so, it is with a quiet sadness to see that it was only for eighty-two years that we were blessed with his presence here on earth and that on May 30th, with that smile on his face, he was fitted for his wings in heaven.

John didn't invent the Blarney Stone, but he took it to the next level. He was loquacious and loved to tell stories, and was well known for his appreciation for an occasional pint. We know, in our hearts, that John is now regaling the angels as he pours them the perfect Guinness. And we know how lucky those angels are!

Submitted by Kevin Loughran

International Sister Cities of Rochester
City Hall, Room 307-A
30 Church Street
Rochester, NY 14614-1284

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Happy Holidays!

Label Here

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